

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1759 - HB 1802

February 29, 2016

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the Department of Health, to the extent permitted under federal law, from including the basic allowance for subsistence (BAS) for applicants who are members of a uniformed service when calculating income for the purpose of determining eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). An effective date of July 1, 2016.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – Should federal regulations allow for the exclusion of basic allowance for subsistence (BAS) from other sources of income earned by members of uniformed service when determining eligibility for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Department of Health will then implement the provisions of the bill. The timing and impact of such implementation cannot be quantified, but it is assumed it will be in a manner that will not jeopardize federal funding.

Assumptions:

- The Department of Health is the state-level program administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program.
- This legislation is only to be enacted to the extent permitted by federal law; therefore, it is assumed that the Department of Health will carry out the provisions of this legislation to the extent it complies with federal law in order to avoid a significant loss in federal funding.
- According to the Department of Health, the proposed legislation will place the Tennessee WIC program into non-compliance with current federal WIC regulations.
- If and when federal regulations may change which would allow for the provisions of the bill to be enacted are unknown. There will not be a fiscal impact to the WIC program until such time that those regulations are changed; therefore, no federal funds will be jeopardized.
- Federal funding for the entire WIC program in FY14-15 accounted for \$81,448,461 in WIC food dollars and \$37,895,201 in Nutrition Services Administration dollars for a total of \$119,343,662.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jdb